



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

NMFS Tracking No.:
2003/01205

March 11, 2004

ATTN: Greg M. Yuncevich
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
House 1, Butte Drive - Route 3, Box 181
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522-9498

Re: Correction to the Biological Opinion for the Whiskey South Timber Harvest and Fuels Treatment Project, Idaho County, Idaho

Dear Mr. Yuncevich:

On February 10, 2004, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) sent a biological opinion to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the proposed Whiskey South Timber Harvest and Fuels Treatment Project, Idaho County, Idaho. In this Opinion, NOAA Fisheries concluded that the proposed action was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Snake River steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As required by section 7 of the ESA, NOAA Fisheries included reasonable and prudent measures with nondiscretionary terms and conditions that NOAA Fisheries believes were necessary to minimize the impact of incidental take associated with this action.

However, after review of the document, the BLM found the need for a change in the Reasonable and Prudent Measure where Item 3b reads: "(construction equipment will not enter the active stream)." This provision would not allow the BLM to cross the stream and work from both sides of the stream as necessary for culvert construction activities. This was not the intent of NOAA Fisheries, and due to the low water period time frames for culvert activities, was not necessary to protect steelhead or their habitat.

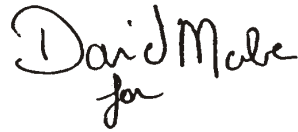
To correct this problem, Item 3b of the biological opinion has been revised to read as follows:

- 3b. Operate equipment used for culvert activities from existing roads or the streambank (construction equipment will not be operated from within the active stream channel).
Require hand work where machines will cause undue soil disturbance.



All other parts of the biological opinion continue to remain valid. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Kevin Traylor or Mr. Dale Brege of my staff in the Idaho Habitat Office at (208) 983-3859.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mabe" with a stylized "for" written below it.

D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

cc: J. Foss - USFWS
M. Benker - IDFG
I. Jones - NPT
K. Stangl - BLM
P. Clark - NPNF